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LISTING OF CLAIMS:

This listing of claims will replace all prior versions of claims in the application:

- 1 1. (Withdrawn) A magnetic head having an air bearing surface, comprising:
2 a magnetoresistive sensor;
3 a magnetic, electrically conductive shield having a surface defining a plane and having
4 first and second lateral sides, formed in proximity to and electrically insulated
5 from said sensor;
6 first and second electrically conductive layers extending from said first and second sides
7 of said shield, said first and second conductive layers being coplanar with and
8 electrically insulated from said shield;
9 a first electrical lead connected with said first electrically conductive layer; and
10 a second electrical lead connected with said second electrically conductive layer.
- 1 2. (Withdrawn) A magnetic head as recited in claim 1 wherein said at least one of
2 said first and second electrical circuits is electrically connected with said sensor.
- 1 3. (Withdrawn) A magnetic head as recited in claim 1 wherein said first and second
2 electrically conductive layers comprise the same material as said shield.
- 1 4. (Withdrawn) A magnetic head as recited in claim 1 further comprising first and
2 second electrically insulating gaps formed at said first and second sides of said
3 shield, said gaps electrically isolating said first and second electrically conductive
4 layers from said shield.
- 1 5. (Withdrawn) A magnetic head as recited in claim 1 wherein said sensor has a
2 surface defining a second plane and wherein said shield and said sensor are
3 parallel and non-coplanar.

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- 1 6. (Withdrawn) A magnetic head, comprising:
2 a magnetoresistive sensor;
3 a shield layer formed in proximity to said sensor, said shield comprising a soft
4 magnetic, electrically conductive material;
5 a layer of electrically conductive material adjacent to said shield;
6 a dielectric material disposed between said shield and said electrically conductive
7 material layer and electrically isolating said shield therefrom;
8 a first electrically conductive lead in electrical communication with said layer of
9 electrically conductive material; and
10 a second lead in electrical communication with said shield.
- 1 7. (Withdrawn) A magnetic head as in claim 6, wherein said electrically conductive
2 layer is coplanar with said shield.
- 1 8. (Withdrawn) A magnetic head as in claim 6, wherein said electrically conductive
2 layer is coplanar with said shield and comprises the same material as said shield.
- 1 9. (Withdrawn) A magnetic head as in claim 6, wherein said electrically conductive
2 layer is formed in a common manufacturing step with said shield.
- 1 10. (Withdrawn) A magnetic head as in claim 6, wherein said shield is disposed
2 above said sensor.
- 1 11. (Withdrawn) A magnetic head as in claim 6, wherein said shield is disposed
2 below said sensor.
- 1 12. (Original) A method of manufacturing a magnetic head, comprising:
2 forming a layer of magnetic, electrically conductive material;
3 forming first and second electrically insulating gaps in said magnetic, electrically
4 conductive material layer said first and second gaps terminating substantially at a
5 predetermined lap stop location, said first and second gaps defining a central

6 portion and first and second laterally opposed outer portions of said magnetic,
7 electrically conductive layer;
8 forming a magnetoresistive sensor;
9 forming a first electrically conductive lead connected with said first outer portion of said
10 magnetic, electrically conductive layer;
11 forming a second electrically conductive lead connected with said second outer portion of
12 said magnetic, electrically conductive layer; and
13 performing a lapping operation until at least one of said first and second gaps is reached.

1 13. (Original) A method as recited in claim 12 further comprising measuring an
2 electrical resistance between said first and second leads until an increase in said
3 resistance indicates that said lap stop location has been reached.

1 14. (Original) A method as recited in claim 12 wherein a portion of said
2 magnetic, electrically conductive material extending beyond said lap stop location
3 is contiguous.

1 15. (Original) A method as recited in claim 12 wherein said magnetic, electrically
2 insulating material is formed before the formation of said sensor so as to be
3 formed below said sensor.

1 6. (Original) A method as recited in claim 12 wherein said magnetic, electrically
2 insulating material is formed after the formation of said sensor so as to be formed
3 above said sensor.

1 17. (Original) A method for constructing a magnetic head, comprising
2 forming a magnetoresistive sensor;
3 forming a layer of magnetic, electrically conductive material having proximal and
4 distal ends, and first and second lateral side portions;
5 providing a gap in said layer of magnetic, electrically conductive material, said
6 gap terminating short of said proximal end and extending through said distal end;

1 performing a lapping operation, said lapping operation initiating from said
2 proximal end and proceeding toward said distal end;
3 measuring an electrical resistance between across said magnetic, electrically
4 conductive layer from said first lateral side portion to said second lateral side
5 portion;
6 ceasing lapping when said electrical resistance reaches a predetermined value.

1 18. (Original) A method as in claim 17 wherein said layer of magnetoresistive
2 sensor is formed before the formation of said magnetic, electrically conductive
3 layer.

1 19. (Original) A method as in claim 17, wherein said layer of magnetoresistive
2 sensor is formed after the formation of said magnetic, electrically conductive
3 layer.

1 20. (Original) A method as in claim 17, further comprising depositing a dielectric
2 layer between said sensor and said magnetic electrically conductive material layer.

1 21. (Withdrawn) A magnetic recording system, comprising:
2 a housing;
3 a motor connected with said housing;
4 a spindle connected with said motor;
5 a magnetic disk mounted on said spindle for rotation about its own axis;
6 an actuator supported within said housing;
7 a slider supported by said actuator for movement across a surface of said disk;
8 a magnetic head formed on said slider, said magnetic head further comprising:
9 a magnetoresistive sensor;
10 a shield layer formed in proximity to said sensor, said shield comprising a
11 soft magnetic, electrically conductive material;
12 a layer of electrically conductive material adjacent to said shield;

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13 a dielectric material disposed between said shield and said electrically
14 conductive material layer and electrically isolating said shield
15 therefrom;
16 a first electrically conductive lead in electrical communication with said
17 layer of electrically conductive material; and
18 a second lead in electrical communication with said shield.

1 22. (Withdrawn) A magnetic head, comprising:

2 a magnetic, electrically conductive shield;
3 a sensor formed above and electrically isolated from said shield;
4 first and second lap guides, electrically connected with said shield.

1 23. (Withdrawn) A magnetic head as in claim 22, wherein said first and second lap
2 guides are coplanar with said sensor.

1 24. (Withdrawn) A magnetic head as in claim 22 wherein said first and second lap
2 guides are comprise the same materials as said sensor.

1 25. (Withdrawn) A magnetic head as in claim 22 wherein said first and second lap
2 guides are constructed in a common manufacturing step with said sensor.

1 26. (Withdrawn) A magnetic head as in claim 22 further comprising first and second
2 vias, electrically connected said first and second lapping guides with said shield.

1 27. (Withdrawn) A magnetic head as in claim 22 further comprising first and
2 second electrically conductive leads in electrical communication with said first
3 and second lap guides.